

**House Resolution**

**No. 81**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wesson**

July 25, 2002

---

House Resolution No. 81—Relative to commending the Honorable Virginia Strom-Martin.

1 WHEREAS, The tenure of the Honorable Virginia  
2 Strom-Martin with the California State Assembly is drawing to a  
3 close following six years of exemplary service, and it is  
4 appropriate at this time to highlight the many achievements of her  
5 illustrious tenure and to extend to her the highest commendations  
6 of the people of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Elected to the California State Assembly in 1996  
8 as representative of the First Assembly District, Virginia  
9 Strom-Martin brought experience she obtained as a teacher and  
10 community leader; she taught for 24 years at Wright Elementary  
11 School in Santa Rosa and was a State Council Representative for  
12 the California Teachers Association, President of the Sonoma  
13 County Educator's Council, and local co-chair for Proposition 98;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Her policy interests reflect the breadth and  
16 diversity of the First Assembly District, ranging from education  
17 reform and environmental stewardship to transportation and  
18 economic development; and

19 WHEREAS, Her legislative agenda included improving teacher  
20 training and staff development, developing multiple measures for  
21 the Academic Performance Index and a Quality School Funding  
22 Model, promoting decentralized electricity generation using

1 alternative technologies and renewable resources, legalizing  
2 industrial hemp, creating rural telecommunications grants,  
3 creating a cabinet level Rural Policy Task Force, and providing  
4 special assistance for Native American tribes; and

5 WHEREAS, She distinguished herself as Chair of the powerful  
6 Assembly Education Committee and as Chair of the Budget  
7 Subcommittee on Resources, and she helped to create and chaired  
8 the Select Committee on Rural Economic Development; and

9 WHEREAS, She served on the state's Wildlife Conservation  
10 Board, the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force, and the  
11 Western Legislative Forestry Task Force; and

12 WHEREAS, She brought distinction to herself as Chair of the  
13 Senate and Assembly's 34-member Women's Legislative Caucus  
14 where she led the focus on child care, women's health, and  
15 incarcerated women's issues; and

16 WHEREAS, Virginia Strom-Martin's hard work and dedication  
17 to core issues, including education, environmental protection, and  
18 economic development, earned her high praise in her first and  
19 second terms, and she was named the Assemblymember of the  
20 Year by the California School Boards Association and Legislator  
21 of the Year by the California Middle School Association, the  
22 Industrial Technology Education Profession, and the California  
23 Parks & Recreation Society; and

24 WHEREAS, She was given the Land Conservation  
25 Achievement Award by the prestigious Trust for Public Lands and  
26 was recognized for her outstanding contributions and service to  
27 California's children by the California Society of Pediatric  
28 Dentists; and

29 WHEREAS, Virginia Strom-Martin's legislative efforts to save  
30 counties millions of dollars resulted in being named Legislator of  
31 the Year by the California County Auditors' Association, and her  
32 legislation requiring the state to comply with recycling mandates  
33 similar to those imposed on local governments resulted in her  
34 receipt of the Legislator of the Year Award from Californians  
35 Against Waste; and

36 WHEREAS, As Chair of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and  
37 Aquaculture, she took the lead to secure funding for fisheries and  
38 habitat restoration, and she was named 2000 Fisheries Legislator  
39 of the Year by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's  
40 Associations and the Institute for Fisheries Resources for her hard



1 work and dedication to the preservation of fishing communities;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Sonoma County, Virginia  
4 Strom-Martin was born in Santa Rosa and raised in Petaluma, and  
5 she has an extensive knowledge of, and an abiding respect for, the  
6 history, natural splendor, and ever-changing economic challenges  
7 that face the First Assembly District; and

8 WHEREAS, Virginia Strom-Martin earned a Bachelor of Arts  
9 degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1970, a  
10 Lifetime Teaching Credential in 1971, and a Master of Arts degree  
11 from Sonoma State University in 1976; and

12 WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, she has lived on the Russian  
13 River in the village of Duncans Mills with her husband, Don, and  
14 her daughters, Hannah and Caitlin; and

15 WHEREAS, Through her public service activities Virginia  
16 Strom-Martin has made a significant impact on the people of the  
17 First Assembly District and throughout the state, and she will be  
18 greatly missed by those individuals with whom she has been  
19 associated; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
21 Members express their commendations and appreciation to their  
22 colleague, the Honorable Virginia Strom-Martin, for her  
23 outstanding record of dedicated service to her constituents and to  
24 all of the people of California, and convey to her best wishes for  
25 every success in her future endeavors.

